

INFORMATION ~~SECRET~~ REPORT

COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR. 12 November 1948

SUBJECT Asbestos, Chromium, Arsenical Pyrites, and  
Other Mineral Deposits at Oppenberg, Styria

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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- for the purpose of exploiting asbestos and chromium deposits at Oppenberg, Styria.
2. Prospecting rights to these deposits were secured by geologist Karl REITER of Mautern, Styria, on 4 April 1946. A geologic survey conducted by REITER in November 1932, and another by Engr. Hans WURZINGER, Karl-Schonherstrasse 1, Innsbruck, in September 1947, established that a 2.5 x 1.5 km. area near Oppenberg contains an estimated two billion cubic meters of mineral ores, accessible by surface mining, and having the following approximate percentages of minerals per cubic meter:
- 5 to 10% asbestos fibers, 4 to 10 cm. and longer
- 2.5% chromium ores with 40% to 70% chromium content
- 1.5% talc
- 1.5% magnesite
- 0.25% siderite
- 10% serpentine, eclogite, and arsenical pyrites
3. On the basis of these geologic surveys, Engr. Rudolf LUTZ has undertaken the organization of a new mining company. He made contact with Swiss businessmen, but they are at present hesitant to invest money in Austria because of the tense international situation. LUTZ is also in contact with British businessmen, who requested mineral samples which he has not as yet delivered.
4. Kammerat Director Richard L. KRAUSE of Vienna VII, Kirchengasse 25, who allegedly possesses 18 percent of the shares in the Zistersdorf oil fields, shows interest in LUTZ's mining project. Comment: According to information from [redacted] based on KRAUSE's own statements, his shares in Zistersdorf amounted to 8 percent. He was at one time negotiating with the Soviets for cash payment covering his shares. Because of this fact and

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Class. C 1 1000 TP: TS S C

APR 4 1977

Auth: Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002000530062

Date: 08/05/78 By: 029

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because he was once arrested and released by the Soviets, it is quite possible that they exercise considerable persuasive influence over him.) KRAUSE worked out a preliminary agreement with Klingerit A.G., manufacturer of asbestos products, for joint participation in the new mining company. [REDACTED] Comment: The firm, Rich. Klinger A.G. Gumpoldskirchen, Lower Austria, is probably meant. This firm manufactures articles under the trade name "Klingerit.") LUTZ is postponing final agreement with Klingerit because he opposes a joint stock company as proposed by KRAUSE and would prefer a limited liability company.

5. Rudolf TIETZ, Jr., an executive of Kapsch & Soehne A.G., Vienna, is to assume commercial management of the new mining company. He lives at Waehringerstrasse 70, Vienna IX.

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